

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for updating electronic information in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:

automatically inspecting a message that is to be delivered to a first address upon receiving the message to determine whether the message contains information about a status of a second address, and

in response to a determination that the message contains information about the status of the second address, updating a record for the second address in a database, and

storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address,

wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 2 (Canceled): The process of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of Claim ~~[[2]]~~1, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of the first user in the database.

Claim 4 (Original): The process of Claim 3, wherein the status indicates a permanent error in delivering a message to the second address; and said updating is according to a user preference.

Claim 5 (Original): The process of Claim 4, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
transparently removing the second address from the address book.

Claim 6 (Original): The process of Claim 4, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
replacing the second address in the address book with a comment which indicates that it is undeliverable to the second address.

Claim 7 (Original): The process of Claim 4, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
marking the second address; and
prompting the first user to take one or more actions with the second address.

Claim 8 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
counting a number of messages that indicate the status of the second address; and
determining whether or not the number of messages is above a threshold.

Claim 9 (Original): The process of Claim 8, wherein said updating further comprises the step of:

determining an indicator indicating a likelihood of the second address being invalid.

Claim 10 (Original): The process of Claim 1, wherein the second address comprises one of:

an address for electronic mails; an address for a web page; and a phone number.

Claim 11 (Canceled): The process of Claim 2, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process of Claim ~~[[2]]~~1, wherein the second address is associated with a person who has a plurality of addresses; and said updating comprises the step of:

adjusting priorities of the plurality of addresses for the person.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for updating address information in a computer environment, comprising:

a module for receiving a message that is to be delivered to a first address;

a module for automatically inspecting the message to determine whether the message contains information about a status of a second address; and

a module for updating a record for the address in a database, in response to a determination that the message contains information about the

status of the second address; and

a module for storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.

wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 14 (Canceled): The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising:
a module for storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~[[14]]~~13, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of the first user in the database.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the status indicates a permanent error in delivering a message to the second address; and the record is updated according to a user preference.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said module for updating further comprises:

a module for transparently removing the second address from the address book.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said module for updating further comprises:

a module for replacing the second address in the address book with a comment which indicates that it is undeliverable to the second address.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said module for updating further comprises:

a module for marking the second address; and
a module for prompting the first user to take one or more actions with
the second address.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said module for updating
further comprises:

a module for counting a number of messages that indicate the status of
the second address; and

a module for determining whether or not the number of messages is
above a threshold.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said module for updating
further comprises:

a module for determining an indicator indicating a likelihood of the
second address being invalid.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the second address
comprises one of:

an address for electronic mails; an address for a web page; and
a phone number.

Claim 23 (Canceled): The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the record is a
portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~[[14]]~~13, wherein the
second address is associated with a person who has a plurality of addresses;
and said module for updating comprises:

a module for adjusting priorities of the plurality of addresses for the

person.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for updating address information in a computer environment, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a message that is to be delivered to a first address;
- automatically inspecting the message to determine whether the message contains information about a status of a second address; and
- in response to a determination that the message contains information about the status of the second address, updating a record for the address in a database; and
- storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.
- wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 26 (Canceled): The medium of Claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

- storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The medium of Claim ~~[[26]]~~25, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of the first user in the database.

Claim 28 (Original): The medium of Claim 27, wherein the status indicates a permanent error in delivering a message to the second address; and, said updating is according to a user preference.

Claim 29 (Original): The medium of Claim 28, wherein said updating further comprises the step of:
transparently removing the second address from the address book.

Claim 30 (Original): The medium of Claim 28, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
replacing the second address in the address book with a comment which indicates that it is undeliverable to the second address.

Claim 31 (Original): The medium of Claim 28, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
marking the second address; and
prompting the first user to take one or more actions with the second address.

Claim 32 (Original): The medium of Claim 25, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
counting a number of messages that indicate the status of the second address; and
determining whether or not the number of messages is above a threshold.

Claim 33 (Original): The medium of Claim 32, wherein said updating further comprises the step of:
determining an indicator indicating a likelihood of the second address being invalid.

Claim 34 (Original): The medium of Claim 25, wherein the second address comprises one of:

an address for electronic mails; an address for a web page; and a phone number.

Claim 35 (Canceled): The medium of Claim 26, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The medium of Claim ~~[[26]]~~25, wherein the second address is associated with a person who has a plurality of addresses; and said updating comprises the step of:

adjusting priorities of the plurality of addresses for the person.

Claim 37 (New): A process for updating electronic information in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:

automatically inspecting a message that is to be delivered to a first address upon receiving the message to determine whether the message contains information about a status of a second address;

in response to a determination that the message contains information about the status of the second address, updating a record for the second address in a database, where said updating includes

counting a number of messages that indicate the status of the second address;

determining whether or not the number of messages is above a threshold; and

determining an indicator indicating a likelihood of the second address being invalid.

Claim 38 (New): The process of Claim 37, further comprising the steps of:
storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at
the first address.

Claim 39 (New): The process of Claim 38, wherein the record is a portion of an
address book of the first user in the database.

Claim 40 (New): The process of Claim 39, wherein the status indicates a
permanent error in delivering a message to the second address; and said
updating is according to a user preference.

Claim 41 (New): The process of Claim 40, wherein said updating further
comprises the steps of:
transparently removing the second address from the address book.

Claim 42 (New): The process of Claim 40, wherein said updating further
comprises the steps of:
replacing the second address in the address book with a comment
which indicates that it is undeliverable to the second address.

Claim 43 (New): The process of Claim 40, wherein said updating further
comprises the steps of:
marking the second address; and
prompting the first user to take one or more actions with the second
address.

Claim 44 (New): The process of Claim 37, wherein the second address
comprises one of:

an address for electronic mails; an address for a web page; and a phone number.

Claim 45 (New): The process of Claim 38, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 46 (New): The process of Claim 38, wherein the second address is associated with a person who has a plurality of addresses; and said updating comprises the step of:

adjusting priorities of the plurality of addresses for the person.

Claim 47 (New): An apparatus for updating address information in a computer environment, comprising:

a module for receiving a message that is to be delivered to a first address;

a module for automatically inspecting the message to determine whether the message contains information about a status of a second address;

a module for updating a record for the address in a database, in response to a determination that the message contains information about the status of the second address, said module for updating further comprising:

a module for counting a number of messages that indicate the status of the second address,

a module for determining whether or not the number of messages is above a threshold, and

a module for determining an indicator indicating a likelihood of the second address being invalid.

Claim 48 (New): The apparatus of Claim 47, further comprising:
a module for storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.

Claim 49 (New): The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of the first user in the database.

Claim 50 (New): The apparatus of Claim 49, wherein the status indicates a permanent error in delivering a message to the second address; and the record is updated according to a user preference.

Claim 51 (New): The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein said module for updating further comprises:
a module for transparently removing the second address from the address book.

Claim 52 (New): The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein said module for updating further comprises:
a module for replacing the second address in the address book with a comment which indicates that it is undeliverable to the second address.

Claim 53 (New): The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein said module for updating further comprises:
a module for marking the second address; and
a module for prompting the first user to take one or more actions with the second address.

Claim 54 (New): The apparatus of Claim 47, wherein the second address comprises one of:

an address for electronic mails; an address for a web page; and a phone number.

Claim 55 (New): The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 56 (New): The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the second address is associated with a person who has a plurality of addresses; and said module for updating comprises:

a module for adjusting priorities of the plurality of addresses for the person.

Claim 57 (New): A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for updating address information in a computer environment, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message that is to be delivered to a first address;
automatically inspecting the message to determine whether the message contains information about a status of a second address; and
in response to a determination that the message contains information about the status of the second address, updating a record for the address in a database, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:

counting a number of messages that indicate the status of the second address,

determining whether or not the number of messages is above a threshold, and

determining an indicator indicating a likelihood of the second address being invalid.

Claim 58 (New): The medium of Claim 57, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

storing the message at the first address for retrieval by a first user at the first address.

Claim 59 (New): The medium of Claim 58, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of the first user in the database.

Claim 60 (New): The medium of Claim 59, wherein the status indicates a permanent error in delivering a message to the second address; and, said updating is according to a user preference.

Claim 61 (New): The medium of Claim 60, wherein said updating further comprises the step of:
transparently removing the second address from the address book.

Claim 62 (New): The medium of Claim 60, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
replacing the second address in the address book with a comment which indicates that it is undeliverable to the second address.

Claim 63 (New): The medium of Claim 60, wherein said updating further comprises the steps of:
marking the second address; and

prompting the first user to take one or more actions with the second address.

Claim 64 (New): The medium of Claim 57, wherein the second address comprises one of:

an address for electronic mails; an address for a web page; and a phone number.

Claim 65 (New): The medium of Claim 58, wherein the record is a portion of an address book of a second user in the database.

Claim 66 (New): The medium of Claim 58, wherein the second address is associated with a person who has a plurality of addresses; and said updating
5 comprises the step of:
adjusting priorities of the plurality of addresses for the person.